REMARKS

In the specification, several paragraphs have been amended to correct minor typographical errors. No new matter has been added.

Rejection of claims 3-6 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

Claims 3-4 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Narasimhan et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,073,165.

Applicants respectfully submit that claim 3 is allowable over the cited art by at least reciting:

> establishing a communications channel with a client computer system;
> receiving information corresponding to new email events from the client computer system; and
> storing the information corresponding to the new email events in a database.

Examples of email events may be found on page 15, lines 10-11 as "created email, forwarded email, replied to email, trashed email, etc."

In contrast, Narasimhan does not disclose receiving information corresponding to email events, such as created email, forwarded email, replied-to email, and trashed email. Narasimhan does disclose at column 6, lines 15-18: "Status notifications to the source server 103, reporting the filtered messages that were forwarded, are sent over the Status connection after receiving status acknowledgment from the paging program." However, Narasimhan does not disclose receiving information corresponding to email events, such as created email, forwarded email, replied-to email, and trashed email. These email events are events performed by a user, and are not the mere status notifications taught by Narasimhan. Accordingly, Applicants submit that claim 3 is allowable over the cited art. Claim 4 recites language substantially similar to claim 3 and should be allowable for at least the same reason.

Claims 5-6 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) has being anticipated by Narasimhan et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,073,165.

Applicants respectfully submit that claim 5 is allowable over the cited art by at least reciting:

> obtaining filter control data;
> examining email data against the filter control data; and

8

determining at least one transfer protocol for the email data based on the examination; and

forwarding the email data according to the at least one transfer protocol via a computer network to a database.

An example of determining the transfer protocol based on the examination against the filter control data may be found on page 16, lines 22-23: "The user may also specify that, if the email is from 'John Smith,' then the email should be sent using encryption."

In contrast, Narasimhan does not disclose determining the transfer protocol based on the examination against the filter control data. Narasimhan does disclose at column 5, line 5 "[m]essage filtering is obtained through a rules-based scheme" and column 7, lines 43-45 "different communication protocols may be used between the source and destination servers to implement the Requests and Status connections." However, Narasimhan does not disclose determining the transfer protocol based on the examination against the filter control data. Claim 6 recites language substantially similar to claim 5 and should be allowable for at least the same reason.

Rejection of claims 1-2, 7-8 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1-2 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chen et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,510,455, in view of Paarsmarkt et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,118,856, and Narasimham et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,073,165.

Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 is allowable over the cited art by at least reciting:

examining start criteria;
determining whether the start criteria have been met;
obtaining new email events from an email database after the start criteria have been met; and
forwarding information corresponding to the new email events via computer network to a database.

In contrast, Paarsmarkt discloses forwarding email itself to a remote device and not forwarding information corresponding to new email events to a database. For example, Paarsmarkt discloses at column 2, lines 15-17 "a user can specify conditions under which a received email is to be forwarded to a remote device." Paarsmarkt further discloses at column 2,

9

lines 25-29 "[t]he user may instruct the apparatus to periodically actively retrieve email from an ISP and forward it to a remote device, and the user may provide such an instruction either at the apparatus or from a location remote therefrom." Accordingly, even assuming Chen teaches the first three elements of claim 1, neither Paarsmarkt nor Narasimhan teaches the fourth element. As discussed earlier, Narasimhan does not disclose receiving information corresponding to email events, such as created email, forwarded email, replied-to email, and trashed email. Therefore the combination of Chen, Paarsmarkt, and Narasimhan cannot yield the invention claimed in claim 1. Claim 2 recites language substantially similar to claim 1 and should be allowable for at least the same reason.

Claims 7-8 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Narasimham et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,073,165, in view of Moon et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,138,146.

Applicants respectfully submit that claim 7 is allowable over the cited art by at least reciting:

> obtaining filter control data;
> examining email data against the filter control data;
> generating receipt data identifying the email data that should not be
> forwarded; and
> forwarding the receipt data via a computer network to a database.

An example of receipt data may be found on page 18, line 31 through page 19, line 2: "As yet another example, the user may have specified that, if an email transaction remained only within the local network of the workplace, only a receipt identifying the transaction should be forwarded."

In contrast, Narasimhan discloses forwarding a filtered message to a forwarding service and not forwarding receipt data to a database. For example, Narasimhan discloses at column 6, lines 19-21 that the "paging program 368 is responsible for causing the filtered message to be sent to the appropriate forwarding service normally identified by a telephone number." In none of the passages cited to reject claim 7 does Narasimhan disclose forwarding any sort of receipt data to a database. Accordingly, even if Narasimhan and Moon teach the other elements of claim 7, their combination could not possibly lead to the invention recited in claim 7. Neither Moon nor Narasimhan discloses forwarding a receipt identifying the transaction. This receipt identifying the transaction is forwarded in lieu of the email data itself. Therefore, Applicants

submit that claim 7 is patentable over the cited art. Claim 8 recites languages substantially similar to claim 7 and should be allowable over the cited art for at least the same reason.
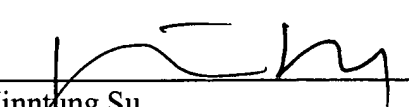
CONCLUSION

Applicants hereby believe that the rejections have been overcome and that the claims have been placed in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully request that the claims be allowed.

Respectfully submitted,

April 23, 2004
Date

Jinnung Su
Reg. No. 42,174
MANATT, PHELPS & PHILLIPS LLP
1001 Page Mill Road, Building 2
Palo Alto, CA 94304
Telephone: 650-812-1375
Facsimile: 650-213-0286

20103879.2

11